

YELLOW PERIL ON THE WESTERN COAST

Agitation for Exclusion of Japanese Reaching Central Stage—Feeling Against Them Strong.

By IRA E. BENNETT.

AGITATION against the Japanese is becoming more general, has its center in San Francisco, and intense on this coast. It where the Japanese congregated and where the labor unions are strongest. Public opinion here seems to be united in the conviction that the Japanese must be excluded, perhaps as rigorously as the Chinese, if a race war is to be averted. The leaders of the movement to exclude the Japanese are the labor unionists, but the feeling against the Orientals is by no means confined to those who feel the effect of their competition.

The chief point of friction thus far developed between the whites and the Japs is in the use of the public schools. Unlike the Chinese the Japs are quick to seize upon every opportunity to acquire English. Most of them are young men, even boys, and they are entered the schools here in large numbers, crowding out white children in some cases. Parents object to the association of half-grown or even fully grown Orientals with their children and cases are cited with more or less evidence to prove that vicious habits have been acquired by American youths through this contact.

On account of the protest that went up Japanese scholars have been forced by the school authorities to take a back seat, and it is possible that they will be excluded entirely from the schools. The immediate result of this action has been to raise a counter protest in Japan, where the leading newspapers are discussing the incident, with the sealing case and others as proof of the growing anti-Japanese feeling in this country.

The young Japanese who are using the American schools as a means of acquiring English maintain themselves by waiting on table, scullery work, and as valets, etc. Few of them are able at first to do any kind of work which comes into direct competition with American labor. The rough laborer, the railroad digger, is another kind of a Jap, and there are some of these on this coast, but they are not numerous. Gangs of them are employed in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah and Nevada, but the Jap who comes to Nevada, is of a different sort. He is a dapper, acute, oily chap, who knows just exactly what he wants, and who is going to get it quickly. He joins a "gospel society," and by the artifice of trying to study the white man's God and doing the white man's chores he manages to obtain an education without cost. The white people who rejoice when a heathen soul is redeemed are only too glad to aid one of these young fellows. They feed him on sacred literature and patiently assist him in his studies. A little later, when he has obtained just what he wanted, they are grieved to find him just as devout a Buddhist or Shintoist as ever.

The "want" columns of San Francisco were full until recently of applications for work from young Japs. They read like this: "Japanese young boy, honest, reliable, wants work after school for his board."

The day has gone by when the people of this coast admired the Japanese. At first they welcomed them, after an unpleasant experience with the Chinese. Now, odd as it may seem, the Chinese are not as unpopular as the Japs. Neither Oriental is a favorite, but if Californians were compelled to choose between them, they would prefer the Chinamen. The Chinaman flocks by himself, and never "butts in" where he is not wanted. He is usually a man of his word, and after making a hard bargain he will keep it. He does not quarrel with outsiders. His hatchet and pistol are exercised almost exclusively in his own highbinder scraps, which concern the whites not at all.

The Jap as he is found and developed on this coast, is often a trickster, quarrelsome, totally unreliable, and otherwise offensive. Perhaps the stories of immorality, which are current here, should be taken with a pinch of salt, but there is no doubt that the Jap in an American community is far from being the quaint, cleanly, honest smiling little fellow he is pictured to be at home. There is enough of the Malay in him to keep him at cross purposes with the white man at all times. The less said of the Japanese women who infest San Francisco the better.

Japanese immigration did not become a serious matter until about the time of the Spanish war. Japanese laborers were imported into Hawaii, but they did not come to this coast in large numbers. At first the Hawaiian sugar planters were delighted with the little brown men. They thought they were ideal laborers, until the camps became little hells on earth with con-

tinual squabbles. As the Japs increased in numbers they became insolent, and made life undearable for the Portuguese and other laborers. Now the Hawaiians are anxious to get rid of the Japs, who are pouring in and making themselves exceedingly offensive. Since the Russo-Japanese war the little men are very conceited. It is no uncommon thing in Hawaii, and even in California, to hear a Jap boast that the Americans dare not exclude him. He is sure his country could whip the United States or any other country. This is a fine sentiment, abstractly considered, but its avowal on frequent occasions in mixed company, is not conducive to peace on earth.

Some Japanese newspapers commented in bellicose way upon the dislike of Japanese in Hawaii, and have advocated the sending of a gunboat or two to Hawaii to bring the Americans there to a realizing sense of the power of Japan.

The Hawaiians do not appear to have been daunted by these manifestations. They do not like the Japanese, and they say so very plainly. Nevertheless more Japanese are landing in Hawaii than ever before. The difference in the situation is that whereas formerly the Japs remained in the islands to work in the canebrake, they now stay at hotels awaiting the next steamer that will convey them to San Francisco. Once having been examined at the port of entry, Honolulu, they are mere costwise passengers upon their arrival at San Francisco, and are not under the jurisdiction of the immigration inspectors. It is said that the inspection of Japanese immigrants in Hawaii is not as strict as it should be—that many diseased and otherwise objectionable persons are admitted, who subsequently enter the mainland of the United States without protest.

The Hawaiian sugar planters are now importing other than Japanese laborers to work on the sugar plantations. They tried Porto Ricans, but the islanders did not thrive. Now they are trying Portuguese again, and a cargo of 1,325 Portuguese from the Azores is on the high seas bound from Fayal for Honolulu. Japanese labor is being displaced as quickly as possible.

The immigration reports show that over 11,000 Japanese entered the United States in 1905, and the number arriving in 1906 will greatly exceed that number. More than half the Japs came under the flag at Hawaii. As no account is kept of passengers arriving from Hawaii, it is impossible to tell what proportion of the 5,500 Japanese arriving at Hawaii last year continued their journey to California. The number was very large. This year the Japanese by way of Hawaii have been larger than ever before. Every steamer from the islands brings its contingent of the brown men sometimes several hundred at a time.

The time has not arrived when hostile demonstrations are made against the Japanese, but it is sure to come. In the opinion of people on this coast, if the immigration is not lessened, mutterings against the Japs resemble those which preceded the outbreak against the Chinese years ago. The greatest resentment is expressed by laboring men and those representing them. These people pay no attention to "international comity" and "treaty obligations." If they think a foreigner and particularly an Oriental, is working for less wages than themselves, they are likely to try to remedy the situation by the most convincing argument known to them, which is corporal punishment and threats of death. Possibly the feeling is most intense in those laboring people who are themselves recently from foreign lands.

The Japanese government has repeatedly declared it is not anxious to see an increase of immigration to the United States. It stated this position before the war with Russia, and has stated it since more emphatically, by pointing out that the development of Korea and Manchuria requires the presence of Japanese and gives sufficient outlet for the surplus population of the empire.

Nevertheless, there is little doubt but that the system of assisting emigrants still exists in Japan, with the cognizance if not the support of the government. This system was in full swing five years ago, and nothing has occurred to cause its discontinuance or lessen its profits. There were 12 emigration companies in Japan five years ago, with an aggregate capital stock of 558,999 yen, all operating under the laws called "Imin Toriatu" and practically under government patronage, as are nearly all large Japanese enterprises. The officers and stockholders of these companies are among the leading business men and politicians of Japan. The industry of

assisting emigrants is acknowledged to be very profitable.

The keynote of this system is the theory of perpetual allegiance to the sovereign. Loyalty to the fatherland was manifested to a remarkable degree by the Japanese during the recent war. They rarely, if ever, renounce their allegiance to their Emperor. Like the Chinese, the Japanese come to the United States for the purpose of acquiring money and returning home as soon as possible. Unlike the Chinese, the Japanese does his best to learn American methods, in order to apply them at home.

With the assurance that every emigrant leaving Japan will return, the emigration companies are able to execute their system of assistance. They work in co-operation with the steamship companies, the employers of labor in foreign countries, and with the emigrant himself. Commissions are paid to active agents throughout Japan, who hunt out would-be emigrants. The great company charges the emigrant a certain figure and he enters into a contract to pay the bill out of his wages. The company then procures a passport for him, gives surety to the government that he shall be returned to Japan in case of need, and advances enough money to pay his passage to the promised land. Contracts are made for the labor of these emigrants, and while it is difficult to prove that the contract labor laws of the United States are violated the success of the system points convincingly to such a condition of affairs. Labor contracts are made in other countries where the laws do not prohibit them, and some times the immigration of Japanese from such countries is quite heavy, indicating that the contracts made, say in British Columbia, also apply in the United States.

Hotel keepers, ticket brokers, railroad agents in Japan, and others who would profit from Japanese emigration are said to be active assistants in promoting the success of the assisted-emigrant system.

The emigration companies have an immense body of material to draw upon. The population of Japan is 293 to the square mile, taking the country by the large. Yet only a small portion of the country is cultivable, and practically the entire population is huddled in this compass. The poverty of the masses is appalling to an American. The wages paid to able bodied laborers are pitifully small. There is every inducement to the Japanese coolie to emigrate and if the contract-labor laws of the United States were not in force the influx of assisted immigrants would be enormous.

Many of the leading citizens of this coast believe that the time has nearly arrived when the Japanese must be excluded and for the same reason. They believe the Japanese are evading the contract labor laws in many cases. And even were the contract laws strictly enforced, they believe the Japanese will continue to come under the system of assistance. The Jap, like the Chinaman, will work for wages upon

which a white man would starve. It is true that the Japs already here have demanded good wages, nearly as high as those paid to whites for similar work, but under the competition of their own countrymen they would reduce their demands.

OFFICIAL COURT PROCEEDINGS.

(October Term.)

Ordered that warrants be drawn on the several funds as follows, to-wit:

General Fund	\$5,214.64
Road District No. 1 Fund	980.54
Road District No. 2 Fund	62.00
Road District No. 6 Fund	8.20
Road District No. 7 Fund	1,028.63
Road District No. 8 Fund	38.00
Road District No. 9 Fund	182.55
Road District No. 10 Fund	460.00
Road District No. 13 Fund	119.25
Road District No. 14 Fund	281.20
Road District No. 15 Fund	379.95
Road District No. 17 Fund	437.95
Nehalem Road No. 77 Fund	19.75
Astoria Road Poll Tax Fund	63.50
Court House Fund	1,200.00

Total amount of claims allowed	\$10,467.52
Amount of claims continued	299.77
Amount of Claims disallowed	55.00

Total amount of claims presented \$10,821.93

Report of viewers on road petitioned for by James L. Court and others, read first time and continued until Oct. 19th for second reading.

Report of Road Master, for month of September, read and ordered filed.

Ordered that work with the County Rock Crusher be discontinued for the winter as soon as the work now under way is finished.

It is ordered that a preliminary survey be made of the proposed change in Nehalem Road No. 77, from the Kamm farm to a point near the 13 mile post, said survey to be made under the supervision of the County Road Master.

Application to have taxes, assessed against the property of Charles Westlund, refunded for the year 1905. Referred to the District Attorney.

Ordered that the Road Master and Supervisors of Road District No. 1 have the bridge across the Skipanon Creek, on the Adair road, repaired at once, it having been reported in a dangerous condition.

The following bids were opened and read for furnishing and placing puncheon on Road No. 99 from the 8 mile post around the Nordstrom Hill, to connect with the old road (Elsie District).

Alex Normand, \$1.25 per rod. Reiert Relerson, \$1.45 per rod. J. O. Johnson, \$1.00 per rod. County to furnish timber or will furnish timber and lay same for \$1.25 per rod. J. R. Wherry will put rock on road, if sufficient can be had, for 25 cents per cubic yard, or will add the old puncheon between Alder Creek and 8 mile post for 40 cents per rod. It is ordered that the contract be awarded to Alex. Normand, Jr. That he be required to furnish a bond in the sum of \$200.00 and that he have said contract completed by January 1st, 1907.

It appearing to the Court that the following warrants were issued prior to July 1st, 1899, that same have been published as required by law and that the parties holding said warrants have not presented them to the County Treasurer for payment. It is ordered that said warrants be cancelled.

No. 4367, T. H. Lunde	\$ 3.00
No. 6182, S. Jackson	.75
No. 6429, F. E. Warner	2.10
No. 6445, J. G. Ryckman	5.00
No. 6453, J. J. Hunt	3.00
No. 6457, R. McMath	1.50
No. 6670, J. B. Arndt	1.00
No. 6815, O. T. & T. Co.	3.00
No. 7245, Ford & Stokes	1.00
No. 7246, Henry Peeler	3.00
No. 7366, H. Sloop	2.00
No. 7367, E. Banks	12.50
No. 7368, J. A. Bender	6.00
No. 7369, D. P. Rose	3.75
No. 7371, J. J. Ryckman	6.00
No. 7375, L. Larson	5.50
No. 7374, M. McFarlane	8.40
No. 7375, L. Larson	5.50
No. 7381, J. W. Adams	7.50
No. 7483, D. K. Warren	7.27
No. 7484, A. Vannice	5.00
No. 7385, J. J. Packard	1.50
No. 7385, Chris Olsen	12.00
No. 7481, W. H. Judson	5.50
No. 7482, J. W. Detrick	5.00
No. 7485, E. M. Houghton	8.00
No. 7486, L. Torkelson	10.00
No. 7487, N. Bosler	10.00
No. 7488, A. H. Church	15.00
No. 7490, Robert Gaston	8.00
No. 7491, Chris Olsen	8.00
No. 8567, C. E. DeForce	2.10

It is also ordered that the following warrants now in the hands of the County Clerk be cancelled, same having been issued over 7 years and not called for.

No. 6645, Ed Lyons	\$ 3.00
No. 6977, W. H. Bruce	2.20
No. 7029, Martin Paul	2.40
No. 7031, Julius Brlands	9.00

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No. 7271, Sam Nelson	5.50
No. 7272, J. Kutchnos	5.50
No. 7273, Chris Buglear	5.50
No. 7306, C. O. Taylor	1.50
No. 7468, Albert Thompson	1.50
No. 7558, A. Berry	1.20
No. 7668, C. H. Withers	2.20
No. 7690, E. Franks	2.20
No. 7705, A. R. Murray	2.20
No. 7821, Nick Petroff	1.70
No. 8113, Martin Maher	2.50
No. 8114, Phillip Lee	2.50
No. 8115, Michael Hazzet	2.50
No. 8386, C. Johnson	2.50
No. 8397, John Matler	2.50
No. 8398, Mrs. John Matler	2.50
No. 8501, G. R. Mills	3.00
No. 8720, J. A. Hill	13.50
No. 8761, L. Anderson	1.20
No. 8770, J. N. Jennings	3.00
No. 8978, Chas. Johnson	2.20
No. 8990, O. Anderson	2.20
No. 9026, F. R. Rogers	1.00
No. 9264, T. L. Moores	2.20

Ordered that Court do now adjourn until Friday, October 19th, 1906.

(Friday, October 19, 1906.)

Upon the petition of A. P. Berg and 12 other residents of Hammond, Oregon, it is ordered that Mrs. Matson be allowed provisions to the amount of \$8.00 per month, until the further order of the Court. It is further ordered that the Clerk send an order to Mrs. E. M. Lally for same.

It appearing to the Court from a communication received from the A. & C. R. Co., that they do not intend to build a warehouse at Swenson, it is ordered that Commissioner Masten have a small warehouse constructed on the public warehouse at Swenson, to replace the one torn down by the County at the time the wharf was repaired.

Report of Viewers on the Road petitioned for by J. L. Court and others (Jewell District.) read and ordered opened as a highway.

Petition of John Beneke and others

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